

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03
NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 H-01 PRS-01 PA-01 /086 W

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R 090800Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9548

INFO EC COLLECTIVE 153

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 6782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EEC NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH ASSESSMENT OF EC-9 SUMMIT

REF: THE HAGUE 6691

SUMMARY. DUTCH ASSESSMENT OF EC-9 SUMMIT NOVEMBER 29-30
LARGLEY ACCORDS WITH THAT OF OTHER EC-9 MEMBERS EXCEPT
THAT IT IS PERHAPS EVEN MORE BLEAK AND NEGATIVE. WHILE
THEIR EXPECTATIONS MAY NEVER HAVE BEEN HIGH, DUTCH PRESI-
DENCY HAD APPARENTLY STILL HOPED THAT SUMMIT WOULD NOT END
UP AS A "NON-EVENT." IN PARTICULAR DUTCH THOUGHT IT
SHOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO COME UP WITH USEFUL TEXT ON
NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS AND MORE POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS ON
TINDEMANS REPORT REGARDING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY.
END SUMMARY.

1. MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN WAS DISTINCTLY CYNICAL
IN HIS APPRAISAL OF EC SUMMIT. HIS SHARPEST CRITICISM,
UNDERSTANDABLY, IN LIGHT OF EVENTS, WAS RESERVED FOR
FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, BUT HE DID NOT SPARE THE
OTHER EC-9 PARTNERS WHO HE ASSERTED SHOWED LAMENTABLE
LACK OF RESISTANCE TO SCHMIDT'S POSITION. DUTCH HAD
BEEN ESPECIALLY DISAPPOINTED THAT GISCARD HAD NOT
SPOKEN UP, ESPECIALLY GIVEN HIS RELATIONSHIP TO CIEC.

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2. RUTTEN TOLD DCM THAT DUTCH HAD HOPED TO THE LAST

THAT AT LEAST MINISTERS COULD GIVE POSITIVE SIGNAL TO G-19 INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO COME TO SOME UNDERSTANDING ON DEBT RELIEF AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO COMMODITIES. AFTER INITIAL DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS ON FIRST DAY, EXPERTS HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO DRAFT TEXT REFLECTING UNDERSTANDINGS, STEP THAT REVIVED DUTCH EXPECTATIONS. ALTHOUGH EXPERTS WERE SOMEWHAT HANDICAPPED BY FACT PRINCIPALS HAD MET ALONE AND HAD HAD TO RELY ON INDIVIDUAL BRIEFINGS, THEY HAD SUCCEEDED IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON USEFUL DOCUMENT. SCHMIDT'S SUBSEQUENT REACTION HAD COME AS SOMEWHAT OF A SHOCK SINCE GERMAN EXPERT HAD AGREED ON PAPER PRESENTED TO MINISTERS.

3. RUTTEN EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT SUMMIT HAD NOT TACKLED CRUCIAL ISSUE OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY AND IMPROVEMENT OF MEANS OF COOPERATION AMONG EC-9. WHETHER OR NOT TINDEMANS REPORT WAS BURIED, AS NOW APPEARED TO BE THE CASE, MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE ADDRESSED THESE MATTERS WHICH NEEDED SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, AS WELL AS DECISIONS.

4. DUTCH CONCLUSION AFTER SUMMIT WAS THAT SERIOUS THOUGHT WOULD BE GIVEN IN FUTURE TO WAY SUCH MEETINGS WERE ARRANGED. RATHER THAN SCHEDULING THEM AT SET INTERVALS PERHAPS THERE SHOULD BE CAREFUL ADVANCE PREPARATIONS TO ENSURE THAT SITUATION WAS RIPE FOR POSITIVE ACTION AT SUMMIT. MOREOVER, SUMMIT SHOULD NOT BECOME LOCUS FOR APPEALS FROM EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

5. DUTCH APPRAISAL IS NATURALLY SELF-SERVING. CLEARLY PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL WAS EAGER FOR DOMESTIC POLICY REASONS TO TRY TO GET SOMETHING OUT OF SUMMIT AND TO CLOSE OUT DUTCH PRESIDENCY ON POSITIVE NOTE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN REAL FEATHER IN HIS CAP IF MEETING HAD SUCCEEDED IN REVITALIZING CIEC. CIRCUMSTANCES WERE ALL AGAINST ANY SUCH OUTCOME, AND WE BELIEVE DUTCH NOW RELUCTANTLY WOULD CONCEDE THIS PRIVATELY EVEN IF THEY FIND IT POLITICALLY MORE CONVENIENT TO PLACE ONUS ON FRG.

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